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nage and woe, and reflected that it was the work of one single shell, and then reflected upon the consternation and horror which must be produced by raining down a shower of these shells upon a city, crushing their way through the roofs of the houses, exploding in the chambers of the dying, or in parlors where mothers, and daughters, and infant children are gathered in terror, never did I so deeply feel before the horrors,—the unmitigated iniquity of war; never before did I so deeply feel that it was the duty of every one who has a voice to speak, or a pen with which to write, to devote all his influence to promote the abolition of this fiend-like work.

When Napoleon, with his blood-stained army, arrived before the walls of Vienna, he planted his batteries, and in less than ten hours threw three thousand of these horrible projectiles into the city. Three hundred of these bomb shells exploded every hour, five every minute, in the streets and dwellings of this crowded metropolis. Who can imagine the terrors of that dreadful night when, amid the thunders of artillery, the cry and the uproar of contending armies, and conflagrations breaking out on every side, these terrible shells, like fiery meteors with portentous glare, were streaking the air, and descending like hail stones upon the doomed city. Crashing through the roofs of the dwellings, they exploded at the fire-side, in the very cradle of the infant, blowing their mangled limbs, with fragments of their demolished homes, far and wide into the air. In this way Napoleon conquered Vienna. In this way England conquered Canton. And in this demoniac work thousands of our countrymen are now ready to engage for the acquisition of Texas and Oregon. The whole city of New York was thrown into excitement by the tale of the explosion of this one shell, and there is scarcely a newspaper in the land which did not record the dreadful story. And yet it is the business of war to cast these shells by thousands among the men and boys who crowd the ships of the navy and the merchant fleet, and among the aged men, the mothers, the maidens and the children who throng the dwellings and the pavements of the city. O merciful God, save the nations from the horrors of war!

May, 1845.

ACTION IN ENGLAND AGAINST WAR AND WAR-MEASURES.

The friends of peace in this country will be glad to learn the prompt and vigorous measures taken by our co-workers in England, for the preservation of peace. We respond to the spirit of their appeal, but trust that no other efforts will be requisite on our part than what we are now making, to prevent a war between our respective countries about such a bone of contention as the wilds of Oregon. Our readers will also remember that neither our President nor the British Premier used language which would foreclose negotiation on a basis of compromise; and their guarded expressions disclose a settled purpose to adjust the whole difficulty by amicable means.

ADDRESS FROM A MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF PEACE, HELD AT BIRMINGHAM ON THE 16TH OF APRIL, 1845.

To the friends of peace in the United States of America.

DEAR FRIENDS,—Realizing the important truth, "All men are brethren," we are opposed to war in all its varied forms, and therefore view with deep concern the present hostile aspect of affairs both in England and America.

We entreat you to urge your government with all faithfulness and sincerity to seek a settlement of differences by arbitration, and to avoid such irritating expressions as point to an appeal to arms, and tend to rouse the indignation of the British government.

We deeply regret that our government, with reference to the disputed territory of Oregon, and the claims put forth by America in the President's

message, should have declared, "We, too, have clear and unquestioned claims," which "we are resolved and prepared to defend; our power, our character, our position, being such as to enable us to look with indifference on what other countries might think they ought to feel sensitively;" but we, as British subjects, and extensively conversant with the state of public feeling here, would take leave to state our decided conviction that with these sentiments the people of England, as a body, have no sympathy. But the British government has expressed its determination to use in the first place "all the means in her power for effecting an amicable settlement;" and Lord Aberdeen expresses his earnest hope and confident belief, "that we shall hereafter have the happiness of saying, that this important question has been brought to a satisfactory, *because an amicable conclusion.*" These are the sentiments to which the people of this country cheerfully subscribe, and our abiding conviction is, that if the friends of peace in the United States are faithful to the great principles they represent, they will meet with a hearty response from the citizens of America, and at no distant day be fully realized.

Sincerely desirous that this appeal may be received as an earnest of our anxiety to promote and maintain the blessings of universal peace,

We are, yours very cordially,

JAMES C. PERRY, *Chairman.*

Birmingham, April 16, 1845.

From the Birmingham Pilot, March 1, 1845, we copy a small part of the report of a great town's meeting to petition against the proposed increase of the navy estimates, and to protest against standing armies and navies.

We stated last week that the mayor, in compliance with a numerously signed requisition, had called a town's meeting for Tuesday evening, "to consider the proposal made by the government to increase the navy estimates by 4000 men, and one million pounds sterling of money," and adopt such resolutions thereon as might be considered necessary. Notwithstanding but little effort was made to give publicity to the requisition, and on Tuesday evening the weather was most unseasonable, the magnificent building was crowded by one of the most influential assemblages that ever met within its walls. The floor was completely filled, chiefly by the working classes; the side galleries were occupied by ladies; the great gallery in the distance was also well filled; and on the platform were a number of the dissenting clergy, several town councillors, and most of our fellow-townsmen who are known to take a leading part in all questions which affect the public weal. Being the first town's meeting ever called by the mayor for the evening, it was truly gratifying to see such a splendid sight; and notwithstanding our mayors have hitherto refused to call evening meetings, on the ground that they would, in all likelihood, become turbulent and noisy, not a single jarring word or movement was heard or seen during the whole time of the meeting. All were pleased to think that the hall had been opened at an hour when the tradesman, as well as his employer, could conveniently attend; and the most grateful feeling was evinced towards the mayor when it was announced that he had cheerfully complied with the request of the requisitionists to call the meeting at seven o'clock.

Not a single policeman was in attendance during the whole evening, it being the wish of the requisitionists that none should be asked to attend.

At a quarter past seven o'clock, Mr. Councillor Perry moved, and the Rev. Thomas Morgan seconded, the motion, that Joseph Sturge, Esq. do take the chair. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Sturge, on taking the chair, was hailed with a general burst of acclamation. I have, said he, been called upon to fill this situation quite unexpectedly, in consequence of serious illness in the mayor's family. A deputation waited upon the mayor this morning, and he then expressed his

full intention of being present. Incompetent as I feel myself to discharge the duties of chairman, I know from experience that the orderly conduct of the audience will make it a comparatively easy task in Birmingham.

I need not say that I heartily sympathize with the object of this meeting, one of whose leading features is to protest against an increase of one million sterling (\$5,000,000) in the navy estimates in this time of profound peace. Though there has been nearly thirty years' peace in Europe, and about fourteen and a half millions sterling are already annually expended in the support of the army and navy, one million more is to be taken from the hard earnings of the people of England. We are told this is necessary for the protection of the commerce of our country; but I know something about chartering and insuring ships, and I do not hesitate to say that, if the whole of the navy were to be scuttled to-morrow, and sent to the depths of the ocean, I could go to Lloyd's, and insure ships and cargo without paying one shilling more premium, and I could charter vessels to any part of the globe without paying any more for freight.

Another reason urged is, that it is necessary the navy should be increased in order to put down the slave-trade; but while we have already thus spent upwards of twenty millions to put down that abominable traffic, it has more than doubled. England has forty-nine ships, ten of them steamers, employed to prevent it; and the French, from a natural jealousy, have sent out forty-eight ships, with no other motive than to see that Englishmen themselves do not carry on the slave-trade.

We are told, too, that the proposed increase is necessary on account of the increased extent of our colonial possessions, and allusion has been more particularly made to India and China. But it is well known that, if any such force appear to be needful, it is because we had gained our footing there by war and bloodshed, and almost every species of atrocity. For example, "At the sacking of Istalif," says the Naval and Military Gazette, "for two days Major Sanders, of the Engineers, was engaged in directing the work of destruction, and for this space the place was given over to fire and sword; *not a living soul was spared, whether armed or unarmed: the men were hunted down like wild beasts; mercy was never dreamt of!*" Is not this enough to harrow up the feelings of any being that shall dare to call himself man? "Mercy was never dreamt of!" (Loud cries of "Shame.") No. And this is war, carried on by *English Christians*, whose daily prayer to that God, whose name is Love, is "Forgive our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us." Our conquests in China were, if possible, still more atrocious. It is well known that in consequence of a few rich English smugglers carrying opium into China to poison the Chinese, contrary to the laws of that empire, it was seized, when we sent out ships of war, and after a wholesale butchery of the Chinese, compelled them to pay upwards of twenty millions of dollars, under the pretence of compensation for the opium and the expenses for the war. (Shame.) This we have done to a nation that had been at peace for 200 years. Speaking of the butchery of the Chinese at the sacking of Ningpo, captain Bingham says—"About 12,000 Chinese advanced upon the southern and western gates, the guards retiring before them. On the Chinese penetrating to the market-place, in the centre of the city, they were received by a heavy fire from our troops drawn up. This sudden check so damped their ardor, that their only object appeared to be to get out of the city as fast as they could, in doing which they crowded in dense masses in the narrow streets. The artillery now coming up, unlimbered, within one hundred yards of the crowded fugitives, poured in a destructive fire of grape and canister. So awful was the destruction of human life, that the bodies were obliged to be removed to the sides of the streets, to allow the guns to advance, and the pursuit was followed by them (the artillery) and the 49th regiment for several miles." (Shame, shame.)

It will be remembered that this cowardly action on the part of the British was only in keeping with the rest of their conduct in the Chinese war,—a war the most atrocious and cruel, against the most unoffending people on the face of the earth, waged to please the cupidity of a few English poison-venders! Well might the Emperor of China say, “Wherever Christians go they whiten the soil with human bones; and I will not have Christianity in my empire.” I am one, and I know there are thousands, who will join me in protesting against paying their money to keep up such a system as this. We are often told of our successful and glorious wars; but what do you think these glorious wars have cost us? Upwards of three thousand million pounds sterling, and 1,800,000 of the lives of Englishmen; and this country has paid five hundred millions to keep up a standing army and navy since the close of the war in 1813. (Shame, shame.)

It is well known that international differences have been settled to the satisfaction of all parties by a reference to friendly powers; and were it not that those who hold the reins of government in their hands derive a large revenue for themselves and their friends from the system of war, that course might be universally adopted. I do not expect we shall obtain a removal of this enormous evil by our present representatives, when I find that there are in the House of Commons, two admirals, one general, one lieutenant-general, 7 major-generals, 22 colonels, 32 lieutenant-colonels, 7 majors, 67 captains in the army and navy, 12 lieutenants, and two cornets, making a total of 152 naval and military officers who vote away the people’s money to support naval and military establishments.

But this is only a small part of the corrupt influence which is brought to bear in support of this system. I doubt whether there are half-a-dozen aristocratic families, some members of which have not an interest in keeping it up. (Cheers.) For example, some field officers receive more than £6000 (\$30,000) per annum; and the expenses of the staff was £165,300; 198 unattached general officers received £187,000; 369 other general officers received £64,000; and 440 half-pay officers received 457,000; while 543 officers received, in pensions, £72,162. It is calculated that the Duke of Wellington alone has received £2,258,360 (\$11,000,000) of the public money, including his pay as a military officer, and calculating the interest on parliamentary grants. I understand that we have two admirals to every ship of the line.

Rev. Messrs. T. Morgan, T. Poxon, P. Sibree, Messrs. A. O’Neill and J. H. Wilson, spoke with great force in the same strain.

MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF PEACE.

No arrangement had been made for any public exercise on peace, except our regular anniversary; but friends of the cause, especially those from the country, were so earnest for a freer and fuller interchange of views on the subject, that a meeting was held on very short notice, and amid a great crowd of kindred gatherings, in the Marlboro’ Chapel on Thursday, May 29, at half past three and half past seven o’clock, P. M. The number present, though quite as large as could well have been expected, was, nevertheless, small; but the sessions, about two hours each, were filled with able, spirited and eloquent discussion.

SAMUEL E. COVES, Esq., was called to the chair, and ELIHU BURRITT, Esq., chosen Secretary. The following resolves were offered, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the cause of peace has claims on the Christian community equal to, if not greater than, any of the other moral reforms of the age.
2. That all preparations for war, and all references to the decision of brute force, are unworthy of this Christian age, and incompatible with the religion of the gospel; that they obstruct civilization and the progress of Christianity, and impose a burden upon the laboring classes throughout the world too grievous to be borne.